

WHATCOM COUNTY
Emergency Medical Services
800 E Chestnut, Suite 3C
Bellingham, WA 98225



Mike Hilley
WCEMS Manager

MEMORANDUM

To: Satpal Sidhu, County Executive
From: Mike Hilley, EMS Manager
Re: Contract for Reimbursement; City of Bellingham Fire Department
Date: October 30, 2024

Enclosed is the C#202412029

- **Background and Purpose**

This EMS Oversight Board Recommended Agreement is to provide reimbursement to the City of Bellingham Fire Department for the purchase of Personal Protective Clothing described as being free of Perfluoroalkyl and Polyfluoroalkyl Substances (known as PFAS). This agreement provides funds for up to 46 sets of Personal Protective Clothing for Firefighter/Paramedics as an alternative to the traditional firefighter “bunker/turnout gear” while responding to non-firefighting 911 calls.

Currently, Paramedics routinely wear Personal Protective Equipment (Firefighting Gear) while providing care and treatment on EMS calls. The firefighting protective clothing contains PFAS chemicals that are associated with adverse health risks including cancers, liver and thyroid disease where more than 75% of line of duty deaths are attributed to occupational cancers.

The goal of this project is to reduce the exposure of PFAS chemicals for both the Paramedic and the patients during vehicle extrications, technical rescues and other responses where the traditional firefighter turnout gear is not required.

- **Funding Amount and Source**

The funding source is the EMS Levy Fund, 130130, not to exceed **\$83,781.64**

Please contact Mike Hilley at (360) 927-1155 if you have any questions or concerns regarding the terms of this agreement.